AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims, if entered, will replace all prior versions of these claims in the present Application.

Listing of Claims

1. (**Currently Amended**) A system comprising:
a computer readable storage medium comprising program instructions executable
to implement a virtual device interface, wherein
said virtual device interface is configured to allow a primary
storage device to be accessed using at least one ~~operation~~
command that is substantially the same as that used to
control a secondary storage device, wherein the primary
storage device is accessed using said at least one ~~operation~~
command in response to a call received from a utility by
said virtual device interface, **wherein said call specifies**
said at least one command,
said virtual device interface is coupled to control said primary storage
device and said secondary storage device,
said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and
is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-
removable storage media, and
said secondary storage device comprises removable storage media and is
configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage
media.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein
said virtual device interface is further configured to allow the utility to access said
primary storage device as said secondary storage device.

3.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein said virtual device interface is a virtual tape interface.

4.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, further comprising said primary storage device.

5.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein said virtual tape interface is configured to create a virtual loader on said primary storage device.

6.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, further comprising: said secondary storage device.

7.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein said virtual tape interface comprises:
        a virtual loader library, communicatively coupled to said primary storage device; and
        a virtual loader utilities module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library.

8.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual tape interface further comprises:
        a main module, communicatively coupled to said virtual loader library; and
        a configuration file, accessible by said main module, wherein said configuration file comprises information that allows said virtual loader library to create a virtual loader on said primary storage device.

9.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein said virtual loader library is configured to allow the utility to access said primary storage device as said secondary storage device.

10. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a first command at a virtual device interface, wherein the first command
  is received from a utility;

converting the first command to a second command using the virtual device
  interface, wherein

  said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,

  said second command is configured to control a second type of storage
    device,

  said first type of storage device is a secondary storage device,

  said second type of storage device is a primary storage device,

  said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and
    is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-
    removable storage media, and

  said secondary storage device comprises removable storage media and is
    configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage
    media; and

accessing said secondary storage device using the virtual device interface.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein

said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and

said primary storage device is a hard drive.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

creating a virtual loader, wherein

  said converting and said creating are performed by said virtual device
    interface.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein

said creating creates a directory on said hard drive.

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14.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
storing information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein
        said storing stores information in a file in said directory, and
        said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said secondary
storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

16.   (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:
a processor;
computer readable medium coupled to said processor; and
computer code, encoded in said computer readable medium, configured to cause
        said processor to:
        receive a first command at a virtual device interface, wherein the first
                command is received from a utility;
        convert the first command to a second command using the virtual device
                interface, wherein
                said first command is configured to control a first type of storage
                        device,
                said second command is configured to control a second type of
                        storage device,
                said first type of storage device is a secondary storage device,
                said second type of storage device is a primary storage device,
                said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage
                        media and is configured to provide access to data stored on
                        the non-removable storage media, and
                said secondary storage device comprises removable storage media
                        and is configured to permit access to data stored on the
                        removable storage media; and
        access said secondary storage device using the virtual device interface.

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17.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 16, wherein said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and said primary storage device is a hard drive.

18.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 17, further comprising:

said virtual device interface, wherein

said computer code is further configured to cause said processor to create a virtual loader, and

said virtual device interface comprises said computer code configured to cause said processor to convert and said computer code configured to cause said processor to create.

19.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 18, wherein said computer code configured to cause said processor to create is further configured to cause said processor to:

create a directory on said hard drive.

20.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 19, wherein said computer code is further configured to cause said processor to:

store information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein

said computer code configured to cause said processor to store said information is further configured to cause said processor to store said information in a file in said directory, and

said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

21.   (Previously Presented) The computer system of claim 18, wherein said secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

22.   (Previously Presented) A computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to convert

       a first command to a second command, wherein

       said first command is received by a virtual device interface from a utility,

       said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,

       said second command is configured to control a second type of storage

          device,

       said first type of storage device is a secondary storage device,

       said second type of storage device is a primary storage device,

       said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and

          is configured to provide access to data stored on the non-

          removable storage media,

       said secondary storage device comprises removable storage media and is

          configured to permit access to data stored on the removable storage

          media, and

       said virtual device interface comprises said first set of instructions;

a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to

       access said secondary storage device using said virtual device interface;

       and

computer readable media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in

       said computer readable media.

23.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 22,

wherein

       said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and

       said primary storage device is a hard drive.

24.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 23, further comprising:

a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to create a virtual loader, wherein

said virtual device interface comprises said first, said second, and said third set of instructions.

25.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein said third set of instructions comprises:

a first subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to create a directory on said hard drive.

26.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 25, further comprising:

a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to store information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein

said fourth set of instructions comprises a second subset of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cause said processor to store said information in a file in said directory, and

said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

27.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 26, wherein said secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.

28. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

means for converting a first command to a second command, wherein

    said first command is received by a virtual device interface from a utility,

    said first command is configured to control a first type of storage device,

    said second command is configured to control a second type of storage device,

    said first type of storage device is a secondary storage device,

    said second type of storage device is a primary storage device,

    said primary storage device comprises non-removable storage media and a means to provide access to data stored on the non-removable storage media,

    said secondary storage device comprises removable storage media and a means to permit access to data stored on the removable storage media, and

    said virtual device interface comprises said means for converting; and

means for accessing said secondary storage device using the virtual device interface.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein

said secondary storage device is a tape backup device, and

said primary storage device is a hard drive.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

means for creating a virtual loader, wherein

    said virtual device interface comprises said means for converting, said means for accessing, and said means for creating.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said means for creating comprises:

means for creating a directory on said hard drive.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31, further comprising: means for storing information on a virtual tape in said virtual loader, wherein said means for storing stores information in a file in said directory, and said file corresponds to said virtual tape.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said secondary storage device is communicatively coupled to said virtual device interface.